

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
October 28, 2013**

Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Garner,
and Councilwoman Young

Absent: Councilwoman Elliott

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Pastor Steve Lyons of Bread of Life Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013, Council Meeting and the October 14, 2013, Business Meeting/Work Session. **The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, and 1 – absent.**

PRESENTATIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Chad Whitehead, Bel Air, MD: Mr. Whitehead spoke regarding a traffic ticket and was directed to the proper authority.
2. Ms. Karen Heavey, Aberdeen, MD: Ms. Heavey asked for the attachment to an ordinance.
3. Ms. Mary Myers: Ms. Myers, a former Aberdeen resident of 38 years, discussed her displacement due to State imposed eminent domain.
4. Mr. Bob Hartman, Aberdeen, MD: Mr. Hartman commented on trash observed in various locations within the city.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Ordinance No. 13-O-08, Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett read and introduced Ordinance No. 13-O-08, Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business – None

2. New Business

a. Appointment – Board of Elections

Mayor Bennett nominated Ms. Angela Johnson to be appointed to the Aberdeen Board of Elections. **The appointment was approved with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, and 1 – absent.**

b. Open Meeting Compliance Designee

Mayor Bennett nominated City Clerk, Ms. Monica Correll as the Open Meeting Compliance Board Designee for the Council. **The appointment was approved with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, and 1 – absent.**

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development – None

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert announced the city's treat or treat hours and the launching the department's holiday toy drive.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

a. Year-to-Date Financial Activities

The following is Mr. Jack's report, "Year-to-Date Financial Activities, July 2013 through September 2013:

Attached is a schedule of the year-to-date financial activities of the City, for July through September 2013, comparing revenues and expenses to budgeted amounts for the various funds. A summary of the activities, by fund, is outlined below.

General Fund

Total expenses exceeded total revenues by \$88 thousand, with expenses of \$6.9 million, and collections of \$6.8 million.

Property tax collection was more than budgeted by \$307 thousand. State Shared revenues were \$48 thousand less than budgeted; and County Shared revenues were \$12 thousand more than budgeted.

Expenses were better than budgeted by \$142 thousand. This was mostly due to 1) savings from property insurance premium, and 2) delayed cash outlays in line items such as Street Lighting, Tipping Fee, and IT.

Capital Projects Fund

There were no revenue activities in the Capital Projects Fund other than the transfer-in from the General Fund of \$3.7 million. Expenses were \$158 thousand.

Water Fund

Total revenues exceeded total expenses by \$585 thousand, with revenues of \$1.06 million and expenses of \$476 thousand.

Total revenues were better than budgeted by \$221 thousand.

Expenses were better than budgeted by \$238 thousand.

Sewer Fund

Total expenses exceeded total revenues by \$105 thousand, with expenses of \$1.03 million and revenues of \$930 thousand.

Revenues were less than budgeted by \$416 thousand. This is mostly due to grants and loan proceeds that are yet to be drawn down.

Expenses were less than budgeted by \$470 thousand because of slower pace of capital project construction.

Stadium Fund

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$232 thousand, with receipts of \$263 thousand (including transfer-in of \$240 thousand from the General Fund), and expenses of \$31 thousand.

All Funds

Overall, the City's total revenues exceeded expenses by \$4.1 million, with revenues of \$12.8 million (including transfers-in) and expenses of \$8.6 million (including transfers out).

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

a. Sole Source Non-Bid Approval

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the sole source non-bid purchase and installation of Goad Roads 10' reversible snow plow, a stainless steel under-tailgate spreader and all necessary hydraulics in the amount of \$19,965.00. **The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, and 1 – absent.**

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reported that the \$1.7 million Rt. 40 project is 20% done and is scheduled for completion by the summer of 2014. The parking spaces will be parallel and the lines will be repainted.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The Council commented on the demolition of homes along Rte. 22 due to State eminent domain and wished the displaced families well. They hoped that the speed limit from the I-95 exit to the gate would be decreased especially because of school children.

2. Business from the Mayor

a. Maryland Municipal League (MML) Priorities

Mayor Bennett reported that he attended a Board of Public Works Meeting in Annapolis concerning the release of a \$1.2 million expenditure from the State for the park near Rock Glen. He was happy to report that the Board passed this.

At the MML Fall Conference, where the Mayor serves as the Legislative Committee Chair, their main legislative priority will be to work for full funding of State Highway User Revenues to local governments. So far, they have received half of the original amount back.

The Mayor also reported that they have adopted a Double Taxation Strategic Initiative. This concerns municipalities that pay into the county governments and do not receive a tax differential or rebate. MML and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) will ultimately present a solution to the Maryland General Assembly.

Mayor Bennett reported on the Council Chambers upgrades which include a projector and two new televisions.

b. 9/11 Memorial Update

The Festival Park 9/11 Memorial will be the only one in Harford County. This is scheduled for completion in the spring.

The Mayor announced that the Christmas Street theme is "Christmas Dreams" and will be held on Saturday, December 7th. This will include Breakfast with Santa at Grace United Methodist Church, a Christmas Craft Fair at the Fire Department; the Aberdeen Room Museum & Archives, a decorating contest, the Parade, and other festive events. A new addition to the Christmas events will be the German Christmas Market at Festival Park with lighting ceremonies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Business Meeting/Work Session: Monday, November 4, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.
Monday, November 18, 2013 at a4:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting: Monday, November 25, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.